

From: Dr. Martin Senftleben
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/15/01 9:00am
Subject: Request for justice

Dear Sir,

I have noticed the ongoing attempts to reach a settlement between the DOJ and possibly the mightiest software company in the world, Microsoft. Microsoft has not become the mightiest because of the quality of their products, but because of their marketing methods, which forced me more than once to buy a computer with their operating system already pre-installed. I never ran this OS, but yet was forced to pay for it - no vender would give me any discount when removing Windows, actually, they refused to do that or offered to do it only at a high price.

Further, Microsoft did everything possible to avoid compatability with other products, once their operating system was established. The history is well known and has been on trial. I have knowingly been a victim - others never knew they were - of this misuse of monopoly power.

If you want to reach a settlement rather than breaking Microsoft's monopoly, then I request that a fair chance is given to every other software manufacturer. This can be reached only if Microsoft is forced to do the following:

- 1 - The Microsoft Windows OS must be an option for every consumer, i.e. computers which have Windows pre-installed must be more expensive than computers without this OS, and computers with the same hardware configuration, but another OS must not cost more than a computer with Windows pre-installed.
- 2 - Microsoft products besides the pure OS must be an option which needs to be paid, and must not be combined with Windows as has been with Internet Explorer and appears to be with the .NET technology in Windows XP, for example.
- 3 - Since Microsoft's Windows has become kind of a standard, it's programming interfaces must be completely public. This is necessary for other software manufacturers to be able to exploit Windows functions to its fullest, since Microsoft has this advantage for its own products.
- 4 - The document format of Microsoft applications must be fully public, so that migration from Microsoft products to other products becomes simple. The strongest reason for not migrating to another, competitive product for most people is the fear that they cannot handle their documents which have been created in Microsoft products any longer.
- 5 - Microsoft must never be able to seize control of the Internet. Hence, any new networking protocol which might be incorporated into a Microsoft product has to be public, in order to enable others to use

this protocol. Best would be to have an independent body keep control over the protocols used in the Internet.

6 - Focusing on Microsoft products poses a high security risk, as has been proven hundreds of times every year. Yet, more and more companies feel forced to use such products, thus risking the security of their own confidential data (and eventually presenting it unknowingly to Microsoft on a silver tablet?). This fact should be reason enough to make sure that Microsoft must not be enabled to control any section of the market, as it shouldn't be the case with any company in this highly vulnerable area.

Please consider all facts very carefully. Do not give up our independence as consumers, and do not risk the national security by leaving an area uncovered which can be used by Microsoft to unfold its power even further.

Thank you very much,

Dr. Martin Senftleben, Ph.D.

Dr. Martin Senftleben
using Red Hat Linux 7.2
my webpages: